

ments, settlement of personnel claims, etc.

(b)(i) Some suggestions were received in this Ministry on opening of regional offices at specific places. These suggestions have been considered in the context of the overall regionalisation plan of the Central Water Commission.

(ii) No engineering officer is deployed only for non-engineering works. However, some of the engineering officers at the senior level assist Chairman, Central Water Commission by sharing the responsibility of supervising the work of general administration of the organisation in the addition to their technical responsibilities.

(iii) The complaints received from individual officers or appearing in some newspapers about any irregularities in the organisation are investigated.

(iv) As regards publication of Bhagirath Magazines (Hindi and English) the journals are functioning satisfactorily and have been appreciated by subscribers, experts and Member of Parliament. Continuous efforts are made to improve the quality of the journal.

(v) The suggestions regarding the common cadre review for all engineering cadres were considered in the meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Departmental Council, when it was agreed that all the cadre review proposals of Group A, B, C and D categories should continue to be processed separately.

(vi) The suggestions of the various Associations of the Central Water Commission on the transfer policy are considered and incorporated at the time of revision of the transfer policy, wherever possible, keeping in view at the same time the work requirements of the organisation also.

(vii) Efforts are made to settle individual claims speedily.

Hindi Channel by Star-TV

*363. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI:
SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Star T.V. network is negotiating with Indian T.V. companies to introduce Hindi channel in the country;

(b) whether the Government have since permitted the Star T.V. network to introduce Hindi channel; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARIGIRIJA VYAS):

(a) Some Indian companies have informed Government that they are negotiating with the STAR-TV the possibilities of leasing a transponder of ASIASAT with a view to telecasting Hindi programmes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Shortage of Pig Iron

*364. SHIR HARI KISHORE SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of pig iron has created problems for foundries in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to tide over the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per the report received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, foundry units in the State have been facing problems due to shortage of pig iron.

(b) There is an overall shortage of pig iron in the country. As against the total estimated demand for pig iron of 1.92 million tonnes in 1991-92, the estimated domestic production is only 1.44 million tonnes.

(c) About 73,300 tonnes of pig iron had been despatched by the main producers to

Uttar Pradesh during the period April-December, 1991. Despatch of pig iron to Uttar Pradesh by main producers will be continued, depending upon the availability for supply. Import of pig iron is allowed under OGL. Import duty has also been reduced to 35% from 55% with effect from 16th January, 1992.

Irrigation Projects in Cauvery Basin

*365. SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major and medium irrigation projects taken up for execution in the Cauvery basin;

(b) the estimated amount spent so far on each of the projects.

(c) the total area brought under irrigation so far; and

(d) the additional expenditure required for their completion?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.